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Statistical Commission
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure and past practice, the Statistical Commission should elect, at its 1st meeting, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur to serve from the beginning of the thirty-second session of the Commission to the beginning of the thirty-fourth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its thirty-first session (New York, 29 February-3 March 2000)[1] and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2000/228. Some changes have been made, in consultation with the officers of the Commission. A proposed organization of work is before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for the session.

In its decision 2000/228, the Council took note of the report of the Commission and requested it to provide clarification on the issues raised by the Observer for Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) as contained in the summary record of the Council's 41st meeting of its substantive session of 2000 (E/2000/SR.41). The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat providing clarification. The Commission may wish to provide the Council with the clarification that it has requested.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2001/1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed organization of work of the session (E/CN.3/2001/L.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2001/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on clarification of the issues raised by the Observer for Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) during the discussion by the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2000, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-first session (E/CN.3/2001/CRP.3)

3. Demographic and social statistics

(a) Human settlements statistics

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements on the possible role that the Statistical Commission could play in the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Statistics and indicators have been identified by the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session as a fundamental infrastructure for the monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.[2] It appears that the statistical capacity of national statistical offices is of the utmost importance in achieving comprehensive and reliable assessments of human settlements conditions and trends. In that connection, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), together with the United Nations Statistics Division, is producing the sixth edition of the *Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics*[3] as an important contribution to the assessment of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

The report will also include proposed statistical definitions in connection with a more appropriate enumeration of the homeless. The current definition has turned out to be rather narrow, not allowing meaningful measurement of the phenomenon. During the expert group meeting on the third global report on human settlements, held in Nairobi from 12 to 15 April 1999, a paper was presented introducing the notion of houselessness, which is more comprehensive. Depending on results of ongoing research, the report may also present preliminary definitions for secure tenure and good urban governance, both of which are themes of campaigns that Habitat has launched.

The Commission may wish to:

(a) Agree on and endorse actions which could promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the key areas of monitoring and assessment;

(b) Ensure full support for the collection and further development of human settlements statistics, both at the national and city level;

(c) Endorse proposed new definitions on houselessness, secure tenure and good urban governance.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2001/2)

(b) Labour statistics supplement to the Tourism Satellite Account

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the International Labour Organization (ILO), presenting an overview of the main concepts and principles of a labour accounting system (LAS) and a labour accounting system for tourism (LAS-T) linked to the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA). Supplementing the work undertaken by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) to develop a Tourism Satellite Account[4] to the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA),[5] OECD also prepared an "employment module" to TSA (TSA-EM).[6] The objective of TSA-EM was to present a conceptual and methodological framework that links basic employment data with TSA.[7] The objective of the ILO report on LAS and LAS-T is to build on the above-mentioned work as well as on the work undertaken in the ILO and some national statistical agencies to develop a labour accounting system (LAS). An LAS-T will represent a labour statistics-based extension of TSA, and is designed to facilitate the production of TSA-consistent statistics to answer questions about how many and what kind of workers are participating in tourism-related activities (TRA), and how the compensation of employees is being distributed among those TRA workers who are considered to be employees. Thus, the perspective of LAS-T is narrower and more focused than that of TSA-EM. The Commission may wish to comment on the ILO report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the International Labour Organization on developing a labour accounting system for tourism (E/CN.3/2001/3)

(c) Gender statistics: progress on time-use surveys

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on progress made on a United Nations Statistics Division project developed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Development Research Centre of Canada aimed at improving methods and classifications to address gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work. The report will include a proposed outline for a manual on methods for conducting time-use surveys. It will also include as an annex the report of an expert group meeting on methods for conducting time-use surveys, held in New York, from 23 to 27 October 2000, including its comments on the outline for the manual. The Statistical Commission may wish to express its views on the outline for the manual.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of a project on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work (E/CN.3/2001/4)

(d) Siena Group for Social Statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics, briefing the Commission on recent meetings and the proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the objectives and work programme of the Siena Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics (E/CN.3/2001/5)

(e) Social statistics

At its thirtieth session, the Statistical Commission concluded that it would be useful to appoint programme reviewers to review selected programmes in international statistical work; this was seen as involving reporting to the Commission on the current situation regarding a specific programme, identifying gaps and overlaps, progress (or lack of progress), a possible change of focus and other matters. The idea was to ask specific countries to act in the capacity of programme reviewers.[8] At its thirty-first session, members of the Commission considered that one or two programmes might be looked at in a session. The Bureau of the Commission decided to start with one programme, selected social statistics as that programme, and invited Statistics Netherlands to act as the programme reviewer. The Commission will have before it a report prepared by Statistics Netherlands, setting out the method that it proposes for reviewing the social statistics programme. The Commission may wish to review the proposal and decide on a suitable method.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report prepared by Statistics Netherlands on how to review the social statistics programme (E/CN.3/2001/6)

4. Economic statistics

(a) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (Convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA). As requested by the Commission, ISWGNA has identified three areas that need to be examined or re-examined to better assess the extent to which countries have implemented the 1993 SNA. Concerning the first two areas, that is, "compliance with 1993 SNA concepts" and "scope of the accounts", ISWGNA makes concrete proposals in its report. Concerning the third area, "quality", some tentative indicators are given but further work and discussion is needed in this area. The report also gives a status report on the topics under discussion through electronic groups and special meetings which might be candidates for updates of the 1993 SNA, such as the treatment of mobile phone licences. As in previous reports, ISWGNA also reviews (i) the integrated presentation of the work programme of the group members in support of implementation of the 1993 SNA, and (ii) the list of handbooks and manuals that are being developed by the city groups and that are related to national accounts.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General, showing the first results of the assessment of countries (based on the new alternative proposed by ISWGNA) regarding the areas "compliance with 1993 SNA concepts" and "scope of the accounts". The report has been prepared in close consultation with the regional commissions, in particular with the Economic Commission for Europe

(ECE) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which have conducted pilot testing of the new assessment.

The Commission may wish to:

(a) Decide whether the current milestone assessment should be replaced by the proposed new alternative assessment or should be considered as a supplement;

(b) Make suggestions on how to encourage more participation in the electronic discussion groups;

(c) Express its views on the requirements indicated for clearance of manuals and handbooks developed by the city groups related to national accounts;

(d) Comment on the work programme of ISWGNA.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2001/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the new assessment of Member States' implementation of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (E/CN.3/2001/8)

(b) Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics, briefing the Commission on recent meetings and the proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the objectives and work programme of the Expert Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics (E/CN.3/2001/9)

(c) Statistics of international trade in services

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services. The draft manual on statistics of international trade in services[9] will also be before the Commission for its review and possible adoption.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2001/10)

Draft manual on statistics of international trade in services (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M86)

(d) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Bank on work and plans in relation to the International Comparison Programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report prepared by the World Bank on work and plans in relation to the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2001/20)

(e) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

The Commission will have before it the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes, briefing the Commission on recent meetings and the proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the objectives and work programme of the Ottawa Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (E/CN.3/2001/11)

(f) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics, briefing the Commission on its work on the manuals on consumer price indexes and producer price indexes and the proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review and comment on the Working Group's work and plans.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2001/12)

5. Natural resources and environment statistics: London Group on Environmental Accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, summarizing progress on the revision of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA-2000)[10] and presenting the planned future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the revision process for SEEA-2000.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting (E/CN.3/2001/13)

6. Activities not classified by field

(a) International economic and social classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, providing an overview of activities that have been completed to address the Commission's request for action in this area.[11] A progress report on actions taken to update and revise the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)[12] and the Central Product Classification (CPC)[13] is contained in the annex to the report, and is based upon the reviews completed and

actions taken by the Technical Subgroup to the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications.

The Commission may wish to respond to the strategy and time-frame set out in the report for the completion of the proposed work programme to update ISIC and CPC by 2002, and for planning their revisions by 2007. The Commission may wish to express its views on:

(a) The actions proposed by the members of the Technical Subgroup;

(b) The ways that the key players in the development of international and multinational classifications have been included in the proposed activities for completion by 2002 and 2007;

(c) The overall organization of the proposed work programme.

Documentation

Report by the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2001/14)

(b) Review of existing statistical programmes in relation to United Nations special years and observances

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the following four special years or special events to be held in 2002:

(i) The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

(ii) The review of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa;

(iii) The comprehensive review of Agenda 21;

(iv) The follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing.

The possible statistical implications of these events will be briefly analysed, as well as the current situation regarding the provision of relevant statistics. The Commission may wish to decide whether to take up these issues at future sessions, and whether to recommend any specific action in the context of the preparation for these events.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on existing statistical programmes in relation to selected United Nations special years and observances (E/CN.3/2001/15)

(c) Coordination of development indicators in the context of the follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on recent developments in the area of indicators, in particular on the outcome of the discussion by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000 and Council resolution 2000/27. In paragraphs 8 and 9 of that resolution, the Council made explicit reference to the Statistical Commission and requested the Commission to play a more active role. In particular, the Council requested the Commission to:

(i) Compile a list of all indicators used in the context of conference follow-up and to technically validate them one by one;

(ii) Identify a limited number of "common indicators".

To facilitate the task of the Commission, the report contains a proposed "long" list of indicators; proposed criteria for indicator review; and proposed criteria for the limited indicator "short" list. The Commission may wish to approve the long list of conference indicators as well as criteria for their technical review and for the selection of a limited set. The Commission may also wish to approve the proposed work programme on indicators for 2001 leading to the preparation of a report to the Economic and Social Council in 2002.

The Commission will also have before it a report prepared by the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank on the importance of statistics, indicators and statistical capacity in countries, and the role of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (Paris 21) in supporting statistical capacity-building in developing countries. The Commission may wish to express its views on how Paris 21 could work with the Statistical Commission to implement Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/55 and 2000/27 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on activities and plans of the United Nations Statistics Division and the Statistical Commission in support of the harmonization and rationalization of indicators (E/CN.3/2001/16)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report prepared by the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank on the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (Paris 21) (E/CN.3/2001/24)

(d) Handbook of Statistical Organization

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the revised *Handbook of Statistical Organization*[14] and the plans of the United Nations Statistics Division to use the *Handbook*. The Commission may wish to review the plans for the use of the *Handbook*.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the *Handbook of Statistical Organization* (E/CN.3/2001/17)

(e) United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report

At its thirty-first session, the Commission requested its Chairman to appoint a small group of statistical experts to prepare, in conjunction with UNDP, a report on the accuracy of the statistical information contained in the *Human Development Report, 1999*.[15] The group of experts — the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission — was appointed and its report is before the Commission. The

Commission will also have before it a report on the matter prepared by the Human Development Report Office of UNDP. The Commission may wish to endorse the report of the Friends of the Chair and comment on the action and plans of UNDP in relation to the statistical aspects of the *Report*.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report prepared by the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission, entitled "An assessment of the statistical criticisms made of the Human Development Report, 1999" (E/CN.3/2001/18)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the observations of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme on the report of the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission concerning the statistical aspects of the Human Development Report, 1999 (E/CN.3/2001/19)

(f) Methodological development: global integrated presentation of the work of the international organizations in statistical methodology

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division on the status of the web site on methodological development, which has been created by the Division in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies. In particular, the efforts to harmonize this web site with the Conference of European Statisticians integrated presentation of statistical work in that region will be highlighted. The Commission may wish to express its views on the progress achieved and provide suggestions for the improvement of the presentation of the web site.

(g) Follow-up to the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council's high-level and coordination segments, and to its resolutions

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council (see Council resolution 1999/55). The aims are to encourage a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and that of the Economic and Social Council, and to promote harmonization of the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from Economic and Social Council resolutions that are relevant to the work of the Commission and the actions taken or planned by the Commission. The Commission may wish to decide on any action that may be necessary.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on elements of the agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council's high-level and coordination segments, and to its resolutions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2001/21)

(h) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities held its thirty-fourth session at Washington, D.C., from 20 to 22 September 2000. The report of the Subcommittee on that session is before the Commission. The Commission may wish

to take into account, in its discussion under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities at that session.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics was established at the end of 1999. It is currently consulting users and producers of statistics internationally and within countries in order to prepare its six-year plan of work to be discussed at the UNESCO General Conference in November 2001 with a view to beginning work at the start of 2002. The Commission will have before it a note from UNESCO outlining its plans, and may wish to express its views on those plans.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-fourth session, 20-22 September 2000 (E/CN.3/2001/22)

Note by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics on its six-year plan of work, 2002-2007 (E/CN.3/2001/23)

(i) Programme questions and related matters

The Commission will have before it, for review and comment, the proposed work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2002-2003, the list of expert group meetings and workshops to be held by the Division in 2001, and proposed adjustments to the approved work programme for the biennium 2000-2001.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General containing the proposed work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2002-2003 (E/CN.3/2001/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretary-General containing the list of expert group meetings and workshops to be held by the United Nations Statistics Division in 2001, and proposed adjustments to the approved work programme for 2000-2001 (E/CN.3/2001/CRP.2)

7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-third session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the thirty-third session.

In addition, in accordance with requests of the Economic and Social Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work; this draft is a revision of the programme of work for 2000-2003 that was considered by the Commission at its thirty-first session (see E/CN.3/1999/L.3/Add.1), reflecting comments from members of the Commission, and includes an initial proposal for 2004. Also, in an effort to promote more harmonization and coordination in the work of the functional commissions of the

Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it a note summarizing the activities of the functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission and identifying elements of the multi-year programmes of work of the functional commissions, where available, that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-third session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2001/L.3)

Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission 2002-2004 (E/CN.3/2001/L.4)

Note by the Secretary-General on activities of the functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2001/L.5)

8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-second session

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its thirty-second session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-second session

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 4* (E/2000/24), chap. I.A.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Statistical Papers, Series N, No. 5 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XVII.11).

[4] *Tourism Satellite Account: Methodological References*, Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 80 (United Nations, World Tourism Organization, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Statistical Office of the European Communities, forthcoming).

[5] Commission of the European Communities, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations and World Bank (Brussels/Luxembourg, New York, Paris and Washington, D.C., 1993).

[6] *Measuring the Role of Tourism in OECD Countries: The OECD Manual on Tourism Satellite Accounts and Employment* (Paris, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2000).

[7] See ibid., chap. 7, para. 1.

[8] See E/CN.3/1999/23, para. 13 (e); and *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), para. 130 (c).

[9] Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 86 (United Nations publication, forthcoming).

[10] Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 61 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XVII.12).

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 4* (E/2000/24), para. 30.

[12] Revision 3, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Rev. 3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 90.XVII.11).

[13] Version 1.0, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 77 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 98.XVII.5).

[14] Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 28 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.17).

[15] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 4* (E/2000/24), para. 42; the *Human Development Report* is published annually for UNDP by Oxford University Press, New York.

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Economic and Social Council

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Statistical Commission
Thirty-second session
6-9 March 2001
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Demographic and social statistics: human settlements statistics

Report of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

Note by the Secretary General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report on human settlements statistics prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), which is contained in the annex. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-first session.[1]

Points for discussion

2. The Commission may wish to review the work on the human settlements statistics programme.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No 4* (E/2000/24), para. 1.

* E/CN.3/2001/1

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Annex

Human settlements statistics

Report of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

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I. Developing and improving human settlements statistics concepts, definitions and classifications

1. The human settlements statistics programme was initiated in the late 1970s, in response to the increased focus and concerns on housing, infrastructure, services, security and sustainable development of human settlements in a fast urbanizing world. It was designed to achieve two major goals: collection, processing and dissemination of international human settlements statistics and to assist member States in improving national human settlements statistics by developing and enhancing methodological guidelines.

2. While international statistics on housing conditions were targeted early on by the United Nations Statistics Division through three compendiums of housing statistics,[a] it was only after the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976) that attention to the increased concentration of people in urban areas necessitated combining concepts of housing conditions with concepts of living conditions in human settlements. Based on the Conference's findings and recommendations and on the conclusion of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-first session,[b] the United Nations Statistics Division developed and launched the Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire 1983 (HSSQ/83) which introduced definitions and concepts of human settlements statistics, drawing extensively on the framework for integration of social, demographic and related statistics.[c]

3. Simultaneously with developing methodology for data collection and dissemination, efforts were made to develop guidelines for building national capacities in this field. To that end, the feasibility for improving the methodology for collecting and disseminating data on human settlements within the framework of environmental statistics was explored.[d] Furthermore, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) sponsored and organized an Expert Group Meeting (Nairobi, Kenya, 1987)[e] that reviewed in detail international definitions, concepts and classifications. The meeting's recommendations emphasized the need to collect and disseminate statistics at city levels. It also offered guidance for further improvements of data collection and dissemination.

4. As a result, the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) jointly developed the Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire 1992 (HSSQ/92), the purpose of which was twofold: (a) to collect human settlements statistics and (b) to offer a methodological model that would be applied at the national level.

5. Based on experiences gathered through HSSQ/92 and on national housing census practices, the United Nations Statistics Division undertook the revision of population and housing census recommendations.[f] In the area of monitoring housing conditions, major revisions refer to the classification of housing units and clear distinction between "housekeeping" and "household-dwelling" concepts. Also in the field of living conditions, the distinction between facilities for exclusive use and shared facilities has been introduced. Several topics that were present in many national housing censuses were introduced (floor area per occupant, for example).

6. These revised concepts were applied in developing the Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire 1999 (HSSQ/99), focusing on measuring housing and living conditions in more urbanized human settlements and emphasizing a methodological framework for combining different sources of statistics into an instrument for monitoring human settlements conditions.

7. One of the major methodological issues related to human settlements statistics refers to homelessness. While attempts were made to define homelessness under the United Nations "Shelter for All" initiative, quantitative assessment of this phenomenon is still prone to inaccuracies and misinterpretation. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the past initiated the review of existing international and national standards.[g] However, agreement on an internationally recommended concept that could be applied nationally is yet to be reached.

II. Supporting United Nations global conferences on human settlements and the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

8. One of the major goals of the human settlements statistics programme over the years was to provide support for major United Nations conferences by assembling and disseminating statistical information on housing and living conditions. The first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, Canada, 1976) was supported by producing a statistical annex,[h] a set of derived measures combined with raw data, used for supporting the major findings and recommendations of the Conference.

9. The second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was held in Istanbul in 1996. The human settlements statistics programme prepared statistical material in support of this Conference: (a) the Statistical Annex to the second Global Report on Human Settlements,[i] a major background document for Habitat II, based on statistics collected through HSSQ/92; (b) the fifth issue of the *Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics*,[j] also based on statistics collected through HSSQ/92; (c) the human settlements atlas and two wall charts on human settlements conditions, which were produced as popular statistical material for the Conference; and (d) a number of statistical databases produced for the Istanbul conference, such as the Human Settlements Statistics Database, Version 4.0; Datahouse, Version 1.0; and UNCHS-CitiBase.

10. The main outcome of the Istanbul conference has been the Habitat Agenda,[k] which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996. The forthcoming special session of the Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda will be supported by a number of outputs produced during the preparatory stage of the special session: Statistical Annex to the third Global Report on Human Settlements and wall charts on human settlements conditions, prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The most comprehensive statistical background and reference document will be the *Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics, 2001* (sixth issue, in preparation), which again has been jointly produced by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Statistics Division. Furthermore, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) will produce the second Global Urban Indicators Database, which aims at presenting another, more city-oriented, source of data for the special session. The compilation of urban indicators is based on resolution 17/1 adopted by the Commission on Human Settlements at its seventeenth session,[l] in which the Commission requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to reduce the earlier endorsed 46 urban indicators to a minimum set of 20 key items for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

III. Quantitative monitoring of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

11. The Habitat Agenda, in its paragraph 228 (m), sets out the Centre's role in monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as follows: "To analyse and monitor major trends in urbanization and the impact of policies for urban and rural settlements, to trade progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and to continue its publications programme including, inter alia, publication of the Global State of Human Settlements report".

12. The third sentence of paragraph 239 of the Habitat Agenda reads as follows: "The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), together with other relevant organizations, will be responsible for establishing an appropriate process for analysing and monitoring major trends in urbanization and the impact of urban policies".

13. The instruments for quantitative monitoring put in place by the Centre refer to several products. The Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics, with its wide country and city coverage, and its regular publication cycle, provides a comprehensive instrument for the quantitative monitoring of the Habitat Agenda. It is the main product of the joint United Nations Statistics Division/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) human settlements statistics

programme incorporating a widely accepted methodology, and regular national-level data collection and dissemination. Secondly, based on the *Compendium*, there are two offspring products, namely, the Statistical Annex to the Global Report on Human Settlements and an electronic publication entitled "Human Settlements Conditions and Trends: Country Profiles and Statistical Analyses" published in 1999.

14. Monitoring the Habitat Agenda entails also developing new and enhanced instruments to measure change. This is especially true at the level of cities, as they are the main focus of the Habitat Agenda. In this context, monitoring encompasses data collection and dissemination and includes introducing different, more city-oriented statistical concepts.

IV. Further activities in improving international human settlements statistics and national capacities

15. As discussed in section I of the present report, improving human settlements statistics concepts and methods is a major concern of this programme. In this context, regular evaluation of the concepts is a necessity. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) initiated a process for organizing an expert group meeting in the biennium 2002-2003. The topics will be discussed with the United Nations Statistics Division in detail at later stages and will include evaluation of present concepts, definitions and methods, including homelessness and improving city statistics. Several other topics shown to be of particular interest for the development of human settlements may also be included (such as secure tenure and good urban governance).

16. Human settlements statistics collection, processing and dissemination established at present as a regular quinquennial production of the *Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics* and accompanying databases, are viewed as constituting an effective instrument for monitoring and supporting major United Nations conferences. Past experience shows this to be an appropriate source of data for other international purposes and of useful guidelines for development of human settlement statistics at the national level, therefore, this cycle should be maintained.

17. The Habitat Agenda tackles a range of issues relevant to cities as the largest human settlements and, in its Global Plan of Action (chap. IV of the Habitat Agenda), defines a series of actions needed to ensure sustainable development as well as a secure and liveable environment. A number of these issues are peculiar to cities (for example, average commuting time, urban poverty, overcrowdedness and so forth). Consequently, and in order to ensure instruments for monitoring the Habitat Agenda, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Statistics Division should work jointly on providing guidelines for developing a body of city statistics at the international level.

V. Points for discussion

18. The Commission may wish to:

(a) Endorse the human settlements statistics programme as presented, including the quinquennial cycle for data collection and dissemination;

(b) Encourage the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in consultation with the United Nations Statistics Division to convene an expert group meeting to evaluate existing methodologies and data-collection and dissemination instruments, as well as concepts and sources of city statistics.

Notes

[a] *Compendium of Housing Statistics 1971* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.73/XVII.4), *Compendium of Housing Statistics 1972-74* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.75/XVII.12), and *Compendium of Housing Statistics 1975-77* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.80/XVII.4).

[b] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1981, Supplement No.2* (E/1981/12), para. 116.

[c] *Studies in the Integration of Social Statistics: Technical Report, Studies in Methods, No. 24* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XVII.4).

[d] *Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics: Human Settlements Statistics — A Technical Report, Studies in Methods, No. 51* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XVII.14).

[e] Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Human Settlements Statistics, held from 12 to 16 October 1987, Nairobi, as prepared by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and United Nations Statistics Division, 1987.

[f] *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1, Statistical Papers, No. 67/Rev.1* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.8).

[g] Sabine Springer, "Homelessness: a proposal for a global definition and classification", *Habitat International*, vol. 24 (2000), pp. 475-484.

[h] *Global Review of Human Settlements: Statistical Annex*, prepared by Statistical Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (Exeter, United Kingdom, Pergamon Press, 1976).

[i] *An Urbanizing World: Global Report on Human Settlements* (Oxford, United Kingdom, Oxford University Press, 1996).

[j] *Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics, 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XVII.11).

[k] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[l] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/54/8), annex I, sect. A.